

INTRODUCTION

This book, as indicated by its title, is for physical therapist assistants and provides detailed concepts regarding patient care specific to the discipline of physical therapy. While other health care practitioners could certainly use this text to learn about patient care techniques, this text is specifically written for the physical therapist assistant and attempts to address patient care methods that apply to that scope of practice. The hope is that this text will be useful to physical therapist assistant students as they learn about and prepare for patient care; however, it is additionally hoped that this text will become a reference and resource for physical therapist assistants as they graduate, study for the board examination, and practice as health care providers. Each chapter includes objectives, key terms, common abbreviations (with the understanding that abbreviations may differ from clinic to clinic and from state to state), and review questions at the end of each chapter to assist with retention and understanding. Also in each chapter is information adhering to the current best practice and an understanding of red flags a physical therapist assistant should know and report to supervising physical therapists or other health care providers. In addition to the textbook, an instructor's manual, including answers to the review questions, case studies, and recommended lab activities, as well as PowerPoint presentations have been added to assist with course creation.